

■ **Fresno, CA** – Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) announced today \$9.1 million in federal funding awarded to help five Central Valley water delivery districts save water and increase water delivery, storage, and management efficiencies. The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior awarded the funding through the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program, a cooperative pilot program to fund water use efficiency projects.

“Our farmers, farm workers, and farm communities depend on water,” Costa said. **“This funding will help bring more water to Valley farmers and growers by allowing our water districts to deliver water more efficiently. This is a win for our Valley economy.”**

The following water districts will receive WaterSMART funding:

Buena Vista Water Storage District

The Water Use and Irrigation Efficiency Project

Reclamation Funding: \$999,681, Total Project Cost: \$2,081,648

The project will line 1 mile of earthen canal to reduce seepage losses, build new turnouts for

more efficient water deliveries, install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system and retrofit meters. The project is expected to conserve 4,000 acre-feet per year and will provide water supply sustainability to the district and contribute to wildlife enhancements. These system improvements will provide more precise water deliveries to growers, allowing them to implement such things as tailwater return systems, ditch lining and irrigation system evaluations and retrofits.

South San Joaquin Irrigation District

South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Division 9 Irrigation Enhancement Project

Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000, Total Project Cost: \$12,996,280

The project will build a state-of-the-art, pressurized irrigation system, replacing an open channel system to irrigate approximately 3,800 acres, and will capture agricultural run-off for irrigation re-use. The project incorporates automated water delivery controls and updated metering technology, allowing for precise measurement and accounting of water use. The project will result in energy conservation, reduced air emissions and improved water quality, and it is expected to conserve 3,498 acre-feet of water per year. Fields currently flood-irrigated can convert to sprinkler or micro-drip irrigation systems that result in significantly less on-farm water use.

Semitropic Water Storage District

Water Use Efficiency and Energy Improvements for Semitropic Water Storage District and Growers

Reclamation Funding: \$711,170, Total Project Cost: \$1,474,640

The project will implement district-level improvements to increase the district's water and energy

efficiencies by adding pumping capacity at two conveyance facilities and by adding a turbine to one of the district's pumping plants. Semitropic estimates that the turbine will produce 2.9 percent of the District's power needs. With the addition of this turbine, 16 percent of the District's power need will be met with renewable energy sources. The project is expected to conserve 2,560 acre-feet of water per year. Semitropic's improvements will enable growers to enhance their on-farm efficiency by reducing the on-farm energy required to provide groundwater and will enable growers to operate improved drip systems.

Henry Miller Reclamation District 2131

Arroyo Canal Modernization

Reclamation Funding: \$434,975, Total Project Cost: \$886,802

The project will install four long-crested weirs (LCW) on the main canal for the district. LCWs precisely control canal-water levels and help prevent system spills. Installing LCWs will reduce the water-level fluctuations in the canal, providing more constant water deliveries. This will improve the reliability and the flexibility of the water deliveries to growers and promote accurate measuring and water accounting. The district estimates the project will conserve 7,200 acre-feet of water per year and enable district growers to invest in more efficient irrigation systems such as pressurized drip systems.

Firebaugh Canal Water District

Firebaugh Canal Water District 1st Lift Canal Lining Project Phase 1-Terminus to Washoe Avenue

Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 Total Project Cost: \$2,814,000

The project will concrete-line 2.6 miles of earthen canal to prevent seepage and sediment in

delivered surface water. By decreasing the suspended silts, growers can reduce the back-flushing and filtering needed for efficient on-farm irrigation systems. In addition to conserving 300 acre-feet of water per year, this project will encourage growers to install high-efficiency on-farm irrigation systems such as drip or sub-surface drip irrigation.